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ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Seventh Meeting
November 12, 1946
4:30-5:30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Messrs. Eddy, SA-E (Chairman)
Braden, A-Br
Russell, A-R
Hickerson (for A-D)
Evans, OCL (Executive Secretary)

1. CIG Request for Policy Statements.

The agenda for the meeting included copies of correspondence between the Director of Central Intelligence and the Special Assistant for Research and Intelligence concerning the Director's request for a set of the State Department Policy and Information Statements. In discussion the Committee agreed with the position outlined in the Special Assistant's answer to the Director, that the formulation of intelligence plans by CIG should not be influenced by consideration of policy expressed in the Statements. Mr. Braden pointed out that a distinction should be observed between national policy and policy in relation to particular countries; the former should certainly be in the minds of intelligence planners and might properly be obtained from the forthcoming area policy statements as distinct from the country statements. Mr. Hickerson remarked that intelligence should influence policy but that policy should not influence the obtaining of intelligence. He considered, however, that the Director might personally have access to any policy statement provided he undertook that the material should go no further than himself and one or at most two deputies. It was agreed that the Special Assistant should communicate with the Director of Central Intelligence and make free to the Director personally or his deputy any policy statements he might wish to have, with the clear understanding that the documents should be seen by no other persons in CIG.

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2. Relation of the State Department to the Production of "Service Papers" in JIC.

The Chairman reported that in the Spring of 1946 the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) had begun a series of so-called "service papers" prepared by the service members of the Committee to the exclusion of the State Department representatives on both the Committee and the Joint Intelligence Staff. The motivating consideration was that the service agencies had needs for papers peculiar to their organizations and papers which should be protected by an absolute minimum of distribution. This series had now grown to considerable proportions. The proposal at present being considered by JIC and CIG that the activities of the Joint Intelligence Staff and the Joint Intelligence Committee be transferred to CIG, lent a new aspect to the situation for, if the transfer were effected, the exclusion of the State Department from such papers might have serious effects in view of the responsibility of CIG for producing national policy intelligence. The Chairman inquired whether the interests of the Department in such matters were sufficiently protected by SVNCC. In discussion opinions were expressed that the sphere of SVNCC was comparatively limited but that there might be areas of intelligence work in which the interest of the Department was small and might be sufficiently protected if the Special Assistant had access to all intelligence estimates produced. It was agreed that the subject should be considered further after exploratory conversations by the Special Assistant, notably with Mr. Panuch.

Verified:

Alan Evans
Executive Secretary

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